

adhesive plaster. Strict antiphlogistic regimen and perfect rest were enjoined. The bowels were regulated by enemata, to avoid any risk of sickness, vomiting, or hypercatharsis from the exhibition of cathartics. The wound healed by granulation; at first the discharge was thin and slightly tinged with blood, but gradually it assumed the characters of healthy pus.

On the seventeenth day the ligature separated, and the wound speedily healed. The aneurismal tumour rapidly disappeared, and now no trace of it whatever can be discovered. From the period at which the ligature was applied up to the completion of the cure not an untoward symptom appeared. On the second day after the operation the pulsation in the branches of the external carotid was distinct. During the third week a few drops of blood were discharged from the right nostril, accompanied by a little irritation giving rise to a great desire to sneeze, probably depending on the new arrangement of the circulation.

At the present time, 28th September, six months from the date of the operation, Major — is in the enjoyment of the most perfect health.—*Dublin Journal of Medical Science*, &c., January, 1838.

51. *Lateral operation of Lithotomy.*—In the fulfilment of our duty to lay before our readers every novelty, we must notice a paper by JOHN CRICHTON, Esq., of Dundee, published in the *Edinburgh Medical and Surgical Journal*, for July last, which appears to us at least to have claims to that character. We were taught to regard lithotomy as a very serious operation. Serious, because it often involves the life of the patient, terminating fatally, even when most skilfully performed, in one-fifth, sixth, or, at least, one-tenth of the cases;* serious, too, from its extreme painfulness.

It would appear, however, from the paper of Mr. Crichton, that we have been entertaining very erroneous notions on this subject; and that there is little risk of life, and little suffering attendant upon the operation. Of forty-five cases in which this surgeon has operated, all "recovered rapidly and perfectly," excepting in the case of one man, who died suddenly and unexpectedly from what appeared to be some affection of the heart, but which was *no way connected with the operation*, and in two or three others, where the constitution had been previously completely broken down, and the urinary organs, from the kidneys downwards, were a mass of disease, and *who submitted to the operation, not with any expectation of prolonging life*, but merely to alleviate suffering during the term of their existence."

Mr. C. gives the following summary of thirteen cases, in which the operation was performed; and in which union by the first intention was accomplished:—

"1. Mrs. Low, aged about 30, from Tealing. After labouring under symptoms of *calculus vesicae* upwards of twelve months, on the 26th September, 1828, the urethra was slit up, and a large rough stone extracted in the course of a few seconds. The urine was retained and passed in full stream from the first, and she went home quite well eight days afterwards.

"I may here remark, that the generally received opinion of lithotomy in females being followed by incontinence of urine, does not hold true so far as my experience goes. In this, as in every other case in which I have operated, the ability to retain the urine has remained unimpaired.

"2. John Chalmers, aged three, from Claverhouse. Affected from his birth with symptoms of *calculus*, which for some months have been extremely urgent, accompanied by tenesmus and protrusion of the inner coat of the rectum to a great extent, often to the size of a child's head.

"On the 1st July, 1829, a rough stone, weighing ten drachms, was readily enough extracted, although the gaining access to the bladder was rendered somewhat difficult by the great protrusion of the rectum, which was no sooner replaced than it again immediately protruded.

"For some days he was quite well, diverting himself as if nothing had happened; but on the sixth day he became affected with severe pain and tension of the abdomen, in consequence of some stoppage to the passing the urine by the urethra.

* That more favourable results have been obtained, we are aware; but we must regard such, until more fully explained, as *exceptions* to a general rule, and as in no way affecting the accuracy of the opinions we have imbibed

Immersion for some time in warm water removed the obstruction in the urethra, and procured immediate relief. On the following day he was enabled to leave his bed-room, and continued afterwards quite well.

"3. James Cock, aged three, from Lochee. Symptoms of *calculus vesicae* from his birth. On the 31st August, 1830, a rough stone, weighing two drachms, was easily and speedily removed by the lateral operation. Nine days afterwards was out with his mother enjoying the fresh air, and two days after that went home quite well.

"4. William Laing, aged four, from Forfar. Symptoms of *calculus* from his birth. 20th March, 1831, was operated on, and a rough stone, weighing two drachms, extracted within the course of a minute—diverted himself with his playthings from the first, was out of bed at the fireside the following day, and on the eighth day was running about quite cured.

"5. Benjamin Orrach, aged 65, from Kirriemuir. After suffering for many years under symptoms of *calculus vesicae*, submitted himself to the lateral operation on the 20th May, 1831, and a stone, weighing five and a half ounces, was quickly and easily extracted. Three days afterwards he was walking about with his clothes on, and fourteen days after the operation went home, a distance of eighteen miles, quite well.

"6. William Both, aged about 40. After suffering severely for nine years under repeated attacks of *nephralgia* became affected with symptoms of *calculus vesicae*, for the removal of which he submitted to the lateral operation on the 11th July, 1831. The incisions were performed, and entrance into the bladder obtained in the course of a few seconds. But there occurred some difficulty in laying hold of the stone with the forceps, which, after several trials, were altogether withdrawn, and the stone turned out with the fore-finger of the right hand. The cause of the difficulty was the shape of the stone, which resembled a crown piece in size and form, the blades of the forceps rubbing over the surface instead of grasping it. Three days afterwards he was walking about with his clothes on; and eight days after the operation was busily employed from morning till night, in perfect health, in serving his customers in a small retail shop which he kept.

"7. John Wulton, aged three and a half, from Forfar. Affected from his birth with symptoms of stone in the bladder. On the 6th April, 1832, a rough stone, weighing three drachms, was removed by the lateral operation, within the minute. He diverted himself with his playthings from the first, and was taken home to Forfar eleven days after the operation in perfect health.

"8. Murdoch M'Kenzie, aged 69, from Oathlaw, had been operated on by me twenty years before, and made a rapid recovery. He continued free of complaint for seventeen years, when symptoms of calculus again began to make their appearance. On the 16th June, 1834, he again submitted to the operation, and a small stone was easily extracted within the minute. Four days afterwards he reported himself quite free of complaint, and continued so till he went home, a distance of twenty miles, some little time afterwards.

"There was something remarkable in this case. The sounding was always attended with most exquisite pain, followed by severe rigors, terminating in acute fever for a day or two, yet after the operation itself neither rigors or fever followed.

"9. John Costly, aged three. Symptoms of calculus from his birth, was operated upon on the 17th June, 1834, and a stone weighing two drachms speedily extracted. He suffered nothing, and was soon frisking about in good health.

"10. David Beat, aged 57, from Balgay, a poor man affected with paraplegia, and for three years labouring under symptoms of *calculus vesicae*. Submitted to the lateral operation on the 11th September, 1834, and a rough stone, weighing once ounce, easily extracted in the course of one minute and a half. He suffered nothing, and was taken home shortly afterwards cured of his calculus complaint.

"11. George Alexander, aged six, from Arbroath, after suffering severely for several years under symptoms of calculus, on the 2nd November, 1835, a rough stone, half an ounce in weight, was speedily extracted by the lateral operation. Went home quite well seventeen days afterwards.

"12. McDonald, aged three, from Dawfield. Symptoms of calculus from his birth, underwent the lateral operation on the 12th December, 1835, when a small

rough stone was extracted in the course of two minutes, a little delay having been experienced by the protrusion of the rectum; suffered nothing, and was taken home shortly afterwards quite well.

"13. Alexander McLean, aged eight, from Lochee, after suffering severely under symptoms of *calculus vesicae* for eighteen months, a rough oval stone was removed by the lateral operation in the course of a minute and a half. Slept the greater part of the time during the two first days, on the third sat by the fireside in an adjoining room, and eleven days after the operation was running about in perfect health."

The reader will, perhaps, suspect that, as it is the surgeon, and not the patient who is the narrator of these cases, that the estimate of the degree of pain suffered by the latter, at all times difficult, may not be very exact in the present instances. If he will compare these cases with those he has himself witnessed, he will readily decide, whether the former furnish an accurate representation of the sufferings usually inflicted by the operation. If they do so, we will not object to the following expressions of Mr. C.:

"Certainly any thing I myself have seen or had experience of in the matter affords little encouragement to believe that any instruments, however ingeniously contrived, can ever effect the removal of urinary concretions with so little suffering, risk of life, and injurious consequences as the simple, easy, and efficient mode of making an entrance into the bladder with the knife."

52. *Division of the Tendo-Achillis for Club-Foot.* The *Medico-Chirurgical Review*, for October last, contains the following abstract of four cases, narrated by STROMEYER, in a late No. of *Rust's Magazine*, in which this operation was performed by the narrator. We were unable to quote these cases in their appropriate place, our copy of the first-named Journal not being at hand when our remarks on the operation were written; (see p. 116 of this No.) but, as we have now the No. before us, and these cases are highly interesting, we will insert them here:—

"The first case was that of a boy, seven years old, who had been born club-footed in both limbs. The right foot was most deformed. The tendo-Achillis was divided. The wound healed speedily by the first intention; but the extension was not commenced till eight days after the operation. Whether the connecting cellular tissue had by this time become too unyielding to permit the foot being brought into a natural position, or there was some other unfavourable condition present, we are not informed; but it appears that the patient was not at all benefited by the operation which had been performed, and the parents would not consent to a second one being performed, as proposed by Stromeyer.

"The second case was more successful. The disease was not congenital, but had come on, without any very evident cause, when the boy, now 13 years of age, was in his fourth year. The twisting of the foot was even worse than in the preceding case; and in addition to the general deformity, the big toe was permanently contracted downwards and inwards, in consequence apparently of the flexion of the tendon of the flexor longus pollicis. Dr. Stromeyer was of opinion, that before attempting to remedy the greater evil, it was advisable to rectify the deformity of the toe. The tendon of the flexor longus was therefore divided, and three days afterwards the toe was extended, and kept in that position for a week. The more important operation was then performed. Extension was commenced on the fifth day. In the course of ten days, the foot had been brought to an angle of 70° with the leg. Four weeks after the operation, the extension-apparatus was exchanged for the mechanical boot which has been contrived by Stromeyer for the purpose, and the patient allowed to walk out. Half a year afterwards, he could move about with the greatest ease, and with the exception of a slight turning-in of the point, the foot had regained its normal shape and mobility.

"In the third case, that of a boy nine years old, the disease was congenital. The toes and the metatarsus of the right foot were bent strongly downwards, so that the dorsum of the foot formed quite a convex line with the leg, and the great toe was drawn upwards in a strange manner towards the foot, so that the only point of support, when the patient stood or walked, was the metatarsal joint of this toe. The tendo-Achillis was divided; and on the fifth day afterwards the extension apparatus was put on.